AN ADDRESS

BY THE

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

TO THE PEOPLE.

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OF PENNSYLVANIA,

TO THE PEOPLE,

WITH

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

PHILADELPHIA:
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PROVIDENT LIFE AND TRUST CO.,

No. 111 *South Fourth Street, Philadelphia.*

ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

The Legislature of our State having bestowed upon the "Citizens Association of Pennsylvania," an Act of Incorporation, by which we are entrusted with responsible powers and duties, it becomes us, in inaugurating our efforts among the people, to address them briefly upon the subject.

The rapid increase of pauperism, vagrancy and crime, may well excite alarm in the minds of all who watch for the good of the Commonwealth, and it becomes one of the highest duties of the citizen to co-operate with such action as may prevent, or abate these evils.

Purely "missionary labors" among the depraved portions of our population, while they have accomplished good results in their several spheres, have left much more to be attempted by other agencies.

Legislation can accomplish but little; and the eleemosynary relief of benevolent individuals and societies, thōugh honorable and merciful to a large degree, leave the records of crime still fearful in number and character.

Public begging has increased among us to an

alarming extent, and vagrancy is almost recognized as a lawful calling.

Drinking houses are fostered by the law, and the cost of licenses is so very small, and the penalty for selling the most deleterious liquors without authority is so insignificant as to render the offence scarcely worth avoiding by the offender, while it interposes no protection to the community, and the avowed purpose of the law is frustrated by the difficulty of enforcing it.

The Association proposes to inquire into the causes of these evils, and to institute measures, if possible, that shall lead to improved legislation concerning them, and to a better state of public morals and safety. For this purpose, branch associations should be formed in the various towns and counties of the Commonwealth, and in the different wards of our cities.

The charter under which this Association acts, however, indicates another important sphere of labor, namely: the "purchase of lands and erection of buildings for the cure of the intemperate," to which end its action is especially directed at this time, and to aid which, the Board of Directors now address their fellow citizens.

We will not here inquire into the history and effects of intemperance, for there is scarcely a family that has not its own record of sorrow, as related to this subject; and we do not desire to reveal more of pain and sadness than is already

known. Every asylum, hospital, almshouse and jail, is a public memorial of the ravages of this fearful evil.

We propose to offer the means of recovery, if possible, to those who may desire to accept them, and to place those means within reach of the friends of such as may be lost to the desire for good. It is not the intention to erect a large and forbidding edifice, with even the appearance of a public charity, a reformatory or penal establishment, but a series of cottages, where the domestic idea and habits of the family may be observed and perpetuated. Homes to which persons may go without any compromise of their self-respect, subjecting themselves only to such treatment and discipline as their condition may require, and where the allurements of literature and art may be secured to them, with a hope of restoring and improving the taste for the good and the true. These homes will be erected in the country, and we will endeavor to make them as attractive in situation and external surroundings as possible. Above all, we will aim to make them Christian homes, believing as we do, that while the appliances of medical science are needful to relieve physical maladies, and the allurements of art and innocent pleasures are requisite to win the imagination and cultivate the taste, the introduction of human sympathies and the direct influences and teachings of Christianity must be applied, and the

Divine blessing sought, for the purpose of awakening the religious principle within, and insuring the reformation of the moral character.

We regard intemperance as a disease, which affects not only the vital organs of the human body, but the whole nervous system, and which may be transmitted from parent to child. The alcoholic poison vitiates the constitution as surely and visibly as does the malaria on which depends the cholera or malignant fever. Its specific tendencies are as distinctly marked by its physical effects, as those of any other cause of disease.

Its influence upon the moral nature, also, is well known. The affections, the will,—become perverted, and the whole man enslaved by the tyranny of appetite. Whether the moral nature is diseased primarily, or as a result of physical disorder, is a question that may be answered variously under different circumstances. In most instances, we believe it to be true that the moral degradation is the consequence of excessive indulgence; the stomach, brain and nervous system becoming involved, and their functions perverted under the habitual influence of the poison.

It is not unfrequently the case, in insanity, that the most pure and virtuous people are profane and vulgar during the excitement of their paroxysms. So, in the disease of intemperance, men of the purest motives and noblest impulses, may exhibit the most revolting symptoms of moral turpitude under the influence of alcoholic stimulants.

On the other hand, there are men of depraved morals, who may take the cup to gratify a taste for impure excitement, who, by continued indulgence, cause physical disorder, which again demands renewed stimulation. With such, the susceptibility to improvement is blunted by their own willing degradation. They are those described by the wise man of Holy Scripture whose hearts "utter perverse things," and who still say "*I will seek it yet again;*" and against whom the sad word is uttered that denies them the inheritance of the "kingdom of God."

Of the class of persons first alluded to, there are very many among our most respectable families, who feel themselves yielding to the habit of intemperance, under the insidious pressure of social usages, or of temptations from without. We doubt not there are secret longings in thousands of such, for some influences to be thrown about them, by which they may be saved from the path of shame and degradation. They already begin to shun the family. Home to them is a fearful place. Their self-respect is wounded, and they are gradually falling.

Of the other class, who have given themselves willingly to the cup, there are those, who, while they may not cultivate any desire for reformation, have families and friends who would cheerfully commit them to the care of an institution, where, if the current of their thoughts and lives may not

be changed, they may at least be sheltered from deeper ruin.

Even in such we recognize the claims of our common manhood, and beneath the deformity and shame with which it is marred, the still nobler traces of an immortal spirit, that feels the need of culture and assistance, and may sometimes struggle for the protection and guidance of the Heavenly Father's hand.

Already applications are coming to us from the families of those who are sunk below personal desire in the matter, and from others who feel a need as strong, but with a more willing spirit to receive assistance, and who desire for themselves such protection as we hope to afford.

We appeal to our fellow-citizens of the Commonwealth and the country, for sympathy and co-operation, and for liberal contributions of money. We appeal earnestly and especially to those who have been blessed with abundant pecuniary means, as the success of the whole work will depend upon the liberality of the people.

The chief cost will be for the farm and necessary buildings and improvements. When they are provided, the institution will be self-sustaining. It is not to be a charity. The inmates will not be subjected to the indignity of being supported by the public. Every man who claims the benefit of the Association, will do so on the principle of rendering an equivalent for the good he shall re-

ceive, and thus preserve his self-respect and independence.

At least three hundred thousand dollars will be required. We shall not, however, wait till this sum is collected, but when fifty thousand are paid in, a commencement will be made; for, according to our plan, a few can very soon be placed under treatment. Confidence in human nature, and faith in the promised blessing of God, upon every earnest effort to restore the wandering, and save the lost, constitute the foundation of our effort, which is now committed to the people.

Confidential communications, as well as general correspondence may be addressed to

JOSEPH PARRISH, M.D.

PHILADELPHIA, July 2, 1866.

Contributions may be sent to either of the Directors, or to The Provident Life and Trust Company, No. 111 South Fourth st., Philadelphia.

FORM OF BEQUEST OF PERSONAL ESTATE.

I give and bequeath to the Citizens Association of Pennsylvania, to be paid to the Treasurer of said Society, for the general purposes thereof.

DEVISE OF REAL ESTATE.

I give and bequeath to the Citizens Association of Pennsylvania, all that and appurtenances, to be held by the said Citizens Association, their successors and assigns for ever.

AN ACT

TO

Incorporate the Citizens Association of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, a number of citizens of this Commonwealth having associated themselves together for the purpose of establishing a Society for the reformation of inebriates, and for the moral and social elevation of the ignorant and neglected classes, and having applied to the Legislature to grant them a charter of incorporation that they may the better carry their benevolent designs into effect. Therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That John A. Wright, John M. Maris, Jay Cooke, W. G. Morehead, S. Morris Waln, Wistar Morris, Samuel Parrish, George Milliken, Henry Seybert, Joshua Woolston, Henry D. Moore, and Joseph Parrish, M.D., and their associates and successors be and they are hereby made a body politic and corporate in law, by the name and style of the CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA, having power to purchase and possess lands (not to exceed in quantity one thousand acres); to erect buildings for the cure of the intemperate; to open employment offices; to establish branch associations in the various cities and counties of the Commonwealth, and in the different wards of the City of

Philadelphia; to examine into the causes and statistics of pauperism, vagrancy, and crime, and do whatsoever they may for the prevention of the same, and for the restoration and elevation of the depraved and ignorant classes of society.

Section 2. That the officers thereof shall be until otherwise directed by the By-laws, a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer, and seven Directors, who shall conduct the business of the corporation, five being a quorum, and that none of the said corporators saving only such officers as the By-laws may direct shall receive any fee or reward for their services.

Section 3. That the said corporation shall meet for the enactment of By-laws and the election of officers on the twenty-eighth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, in the City of Philadelphia, and shall thereafter meet annually on the second Wednesday of January, at such hour and place as they may designate beforehand, then and there to transact all needful business; and, furthermore, to elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, for one year, and at the meeting and elections of said corporation, whether stated or special, such of the members as shall attend thereat shall constitute a quorum. *Provided, however*, That the corporation shall not at any time be dissolved by reason of a failure to hold the annual meeting, or to elect officers, but such meetings and elections may be held one calendar month thereafter, on ten days public notice, and in the meantime the officers in place shall continue to act.

Section 4. That the terms and manner of admitting new members into said corporation, the amount of con-

tribution payable by the members thereof, annually, or for life, the manner of calling special meetings, and the duties of the officers of the same, whether herein named or hereafter to be provided for, shall be such as shall be prescribed by the By-laws.

JAMES R. KELLEY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

D. FLEMING,
Speaker of the Senate.

Approved the eleventh day of April, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

A. G. CURTIN.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,
Harrisburg, April 24, *A.D.* 1866.

Pennsylvania, ss:

I do hereby certify that the foregoing and annexed is a full, true and correct copy of the original Act of the General Assembly, entitled "An Act to incorporate the CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA," as the same remains on file in this office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Secretary's Office to be affixed, the day and year above written.

W. H. ARMSTRONG,
Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth.